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# Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 27 | Min 16 | Humidity 41% Sunny Sensex 78,199 | Nifty 23,707 | Gold 77,767 | Silver 91,380 | Dollar 85.73 | Euro 89.10 | GBP 107.47

## HELP AT HAND

Counselling centre to help deal with domestic conflicts, workplace harassment, mental health challenges in E-City

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## PLUS OR MINUS

22,054 mathematics and science teacher posts are vacant as against sanctioned posts of 33,966 in state

PAGE 6

### Congestion fees from vehicles to access busy parts of city during rush hour; development of public transport systems, high parking charge — experts discuss ways to ease the jam

# BREAK THE DEADLOCK

## Discouraging use of four-wheelers is only way forward?

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With New York City starting to charge congestion fees from vehicles for accessing busy parts of the city during peak hour traffic, Bengaluru-based public mobility experts say a similar rule should be implemented in the city to reduce traffic gridlock.

They say vehicular traffic in the city is becoming worse and congestion fees would discourage commuters from using private vehicles. Some suggest congestion fees along with occupancy charges for private four-wheelers in the central business district area.

"Bengaluru's CBD area must get decongested so that people can travel with ease. Most of the congestion is currently due to private four-wheelers. Some studies show that the average occupancy of four-wheelers in the city is less than two persons per vehicle. There should be congestion fee not just for entering the CBD but also if you are traveling alone or with one co-passenger," said Dattatreya Devare, trustee of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 >>

> **"Most of the congestion is currently due to private four-wheelers. Some studies show that the average occupancy of four-wheelers in the city is less than two persons per vehicle**
>
> —Dattatreya Devare, Bangalore Environment Trust

# Bump on the road

### Around 86 unscientific road humps have made commute on service road of B'luru-Mysuru highway a pain in the wrong place

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Recently, a biker died after being hit by another vehicle while negotiating a speedbreaker on the service road of Bengaluru-Mysuru road. Before the 10-laning of the Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway, humps were a major obstacle for travellers on the highway, with 106 humps along the 140-km stretch.

The road expansion project successfully removed these, providing a smoother journey. However, the recent revelation is that the humps have returned on the service roads. This poses a challenge for those opting to take the service roads to avoid tolls on the highway.

Approximately 86 unscientific road humps are estimated to exist along a 46-km stretch between Mandya and Mysuru. Police attribute a majority of highway accidents to these unscientific road humps, leading to a filed police case in Mandya, alleging negligence by the National Highways Authority of India. Locals report that many of these humps lack warning signs, and some have been illegally installed by residents.

Previously, the highway earned the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 >>

## THINGS TO DO

### 01 Comic con

Comic Con India, the largest pop culture celebration in the subcontinent, is set to make waves by ringing in the New Year with its much-awaited 12th edition in Bengaluru. This highly anticipated edition promises a two-day extravaganza. **Where: KTPO Whitefield; When: January 18 and 19**

### 02 Japan Habba

Attend the biggest celebration of Japanese culture in India. For its 20th anniversary, Japan Habba celebrates "Everything Japan." Japan Habba is home to 4+ stages, 30+ events and experiences, and 70+ stalls and experience zones that bring the sights, sounds and tastes of Japan to Namma Bengaluru. **Where: Chamara Vajra; When: January 12, 10 am**

### 03 Sonu Venugopal live

New Kannada standup comedy by the infamous Sonu Venugopal titled, 'High risk, low returns,' promises to make you catch your sides. **Where: Dr BR Ambedkar Bhavan; When: January 18, 4 pm**

### 04 Circus amusement

Olympian circus is back with another show in the city. Attend to witness some international acrobats and gymnasts performing at the Olympian circus. **Where: Exhibition Ground; When: January 10–February 10, 4 pm and 7 pm**

### 05 Sonu Nigam concert

Sonu Nigam Live is an electrifying concert featuring the legendary Indian playback singer Sonu Nigam. Known for his soulful voice and versatility, he performs a mix of Bollywood hits, romantic songs, and Kannada chartbusters. With a captivating stage presence, live orchestration, and fan-favorite tracks, the event promises a musical journey spanning decades.
**Where: Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield; When: February 23, 7.30 pm**

# 'Demand for fixed pay of ₹15,000 is fair and just'

## 25,000+ ASHA workers gather at Freedom Park, with demands that can give them a life of dignity

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ASHA workers protesting at Freedom Park on Tuesday

Over 25,000 ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) workers from across Karnataka launched an indefinite strike at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Tuesday, demanding a fixed monthly honorarium of Rs 15,000 and other critical benefits. The park echoed with slogans such as "Increase honorarium to Rs 15,000," "Let the government keep its promises," and "Down with the health department for suppressing the right to protest," as the workers expressed their anger and frustration.

Addressing the gathering, noted Kannada writer and activist Prof Allamaprabhu Bettaduru disclosed the need to fulfill the demands of ASHA workers, who play a vital role in the healthcare system. He pointed out that the rising cost of living and inflation have made it difficult for them to lead a dignified life, making their demand for Rs 15,000 fair and just. Prof Bettaduru urged both the central and state governments to address the inequality faced by ASHA workers, stating, "Efforts are theirs, but the fruits are taken by others."

The protesting ASHA workers have presented a series of demands aimed at addressing their long-standing grievances and improving their working conditions. They are demanding a fixed monthly payment of Rs 15,000, combining state and central incentives, along with an additional Rs 2,000 for urban ASHAs.

The workers are also urging the government to release their pending payments for the last two to three months. They have called for the withdrawal of orders mandating the use of smartphones and the malfunctioning ASHA soft application, which has resulted in significant financial losses for their labour. If mobile-based work is to continue, they insist on being provided with smartphones and data, as well as alternative arrangements for those lacking the necessary skills.

> **"ASHAs, who were hailed as frontline warriors during the pandemic, are now being neglected**
> – K Radhakrishna, AIUTUC

Another key demand is the increase of retirement benefits to Rs 5 lakhs, similar to provisions in West Bengal. The workers are also seeking a provision to pay incentives for three months in case of serious illness, comprehensive health check-ups, and free treatment for critical conditions. They demand accident compensation for injuries sustained during duty. Furthermore, facilitators should receive an honorarium of Rs 7,500, with pending payments released immediately. Lastly, ASHA workers want to be recognised as government employees or treated as workers with equal pay for equal work, along with access to benefits such as ESI, PF, and other entitlements.

K Uma, the state secretary of the Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist) (SUCI (C)), criticised the government for its lack of respect and support for ASHA workers, despite their critical role in public health. She questioned the government's claims of being pro-woman while simultaneously suppressing the voices of women fighting for their rights.

K Radhakrishna, president of the All India United Trade Union Centre (AIUTUC), spoke about the broader issues of inequality and exploitation in India's labor system. He highlighted how globalisation and privatisation policies have led to precarious contract-based employment, with low wages and minimal benefits. "ASHAs, who were hailed as frontline warriors during the pandemic, are now being neglected," he said and asked the workers to persist in their struggle until their demands are met.

The protest also saw participation from several prominent figures, including Dr Sudha Kamath, state president of the Medical Service Centre, and leaders from AIUTUC and the Karnataka Rajya Samyukta ASHA Karyakarteyara Sangha. State Secretary Nagalakshmi demanded that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah personally address the workers.

ASHA workers submitted a memorandum to Dr Triveni, Mission Director of the National Health Mission, and Dr Prabhugouda Patil, Deputy Director of the ASHA Programme.

# HC upholds land acquisition notifications

The Karnataka High Court has validated the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) 's notifications for land acquisition to construct Peripheral Ring Road-II, connecting Hosur-Mysuru Road and Tumkur Road. Justice ES Indiresh confirmed both the preliminary and final notifications from 2005 and 2011 under Section 24 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.

**Farmers oppose peripheral ring road (PRR) staged protest in front of the BDA office (File photo)**

The judgement stated, "I am of the view that, as the respondent-BDA has laid road in Peripheral Ring Road (Part-II) for more than 80% of the project and as such, taking into consideration the difficulties that arise in respect of the construction of metro station, service road to enable the nearby habitants to reach main roads as well as taking necessary precautions for the safety of the vehicles and the public in general, I am of the view that no interference be called for in respect of the quashing of the impugned notifications issued by the respondent-authorities for formation of PRR II."

Landowners whose properties were acquired filed petitions, arguing that despite a decade passing since the notifications, no award was issued. The BDA contested the petitions' timing, noting a three-year delay after acquisition initiation. They confirmed that award notices were issued to some landowners and possession documents were transferred to the Engineering Section. They reported that only 1.8 kilometres arterial road pending due to legal proceedings. **— BMB**

# 'Specify norms for stolen gold pledged with companies'

The High Court has directed the state's Law Commission to develop guidelines regarding stolen gold pledged with finance companies, addressing the implications and procedures when criminal proceedings begin.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj highlighted the frequent occurrence of cases involving stolen gold being pledged with finance companies. The court stated, "I am of the considered opinion that this aspect would have to be examined by the concerned authorities and proper guidelines have to be formulated in relation to such pledging of gold, ascertainment of ownership, identity of the person pledging the gold, implication of pledging stolen gold, manner of dealing with such gold when criminal proceedings are taken up etc. Therefore, I request the Law Commission, Karnataka to look into this matter and formulate necessary guidelines/rules or the like as deemed fit."

This directive came whilst resolving a petition by Muthoot Finance Limited, which challenged a notice from Begur Police Station requesting access to certain gold articles in their custody, allegedly stolen and pledged with them. The finance company expressed willingness to assist the investigation whilst maintaining their right to retain the pledged gold as a Pledgee/pawnee.

The court specified that during investigations, officers must verify various aspects including gold ownership, and the court handling the matter would determine the rightful recipient under Section 454 of the previous Code of Criminal Procedure, now Section 500 of the BNSS. The court emphasised that legitimate owners cannot be denied access to their gold merely because it was pledged after theft, noting that finance companies must conduct thorough due diligence before accepting pledges. **— BMB**

## BJP member booked for rape

A case has been registered against the BJP member, Somashekhar who contested from Sakaleshpura assembly constituency in 2018 after a 26-year-old woman filed a complaint accusing him for raping her on the pretext of financial help.

According to the victim's complaint, she sought help from Somashekhar when her marriage was fixed last year, and he promised to help her financially with 6 lakh rupees. In the pretext of this, the accused in the month of October last year to her to a PG and forced her to drink alcohol and raped her. He later threatened her that he would defame her, fearing that the victim did not inform anyone. She later revealed this to her relatives and friends and approached the police.

The police have registered a case and the accused is currently on the run. —BMB

## Man ends life due to harassment

A 48-year-old man died by suicide in a lodge room on Monday after allegedly facing harassment from his business partner under the Hulimavu police station limits.

The deceased has been identified as Kalol Dutta, who had a catering business since 2018 partnered with AJ Mariswamy. According to sources, the business went down in Covid and the deceased faced a huge loss. Because of this, the accused Mariswamy started harassing him. The deceased had also taken loans and had sold his gold valuables to repay the loss but the harassment continued. This led to Kalol ending his life. The wife in the complaint also states that Mariswamy would continuously harass him every day. The police have registered a case and further investigation is underway.

(Those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani Ph No 108 for help) —BMB

## Journalist attacked for covering story

A couple and two of their relatives were arrested by the Pavagada police after they publicly humiliated a 59-year-old journalist for carrying a news report against them.

The accused are identified as Narayana Reddy (49), his wife Roopa (38), Lakshmi Devi (48), and Adilakshmi (48), their relatives.

According to the police, the prime accused Narayana was arrested in another case, and that news was reported in the local newspaper. The accused allegedly threatened the journalist's life and humiliated him and his family. The victim had also filed a complaint, citing the threat to his life after this. On Monday, while the victim was out with his family shopping, the accused assaulted him publicly.

The victim was admitted to the hospital after this and has blurry vision due to the assault. The police have registered a case and charged the accused under sections of the BNS; further investigations are underway. While the prime accused is arrested, the other accused are still on the run. —BMB

# Electronic City gets much-needed counselling centre

### Police, NGO and ELCITA launch initiative that aims to provide timely support for mental health challenges to families in IT hub

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With the increasing need for a localised support system to address the mental health and safety concerns of women, children, and families in Bengaluru's IT hub, a new counselling centre has opened in Electronic City Police station. The initiative, a joint effort of the Bengaluru Police in collaboration with Parihar and Electronics City Industrial Township Authority (ELCITA), aims to provide timely and professional support for issues like domestic conflicts, workplace harassment, and mental health challenges.

With women forming a significant part of the workforce in the tech-dominated locality, help was often too far from the workplaces, delaying essential interventions. Responding to this gap, a counselling centre was set up and inaugurated on January 6 by Police Commissioner B Dayananda.

"They highlighted that many corporate employees in this area face marital disputes and other personal issues, and there was a need for counselling support before such matters escalate to the police," stated Commissioner of Police, B Dayananda.

**Centre is open not only to women but men and children, fostering a family friendly approach**

### Safe space for all

DCP South-east Sarah Fatima told BM, "Beyond being a response to harassment or conflicts, it offers a safe space for individuals to seek guidance and solutions."

The centre is open not only to women but also to men and children, fostering a family-friendly approach. "We aim to create a supportive community for anyone facing challenges," she added.

Rani Shetty, the incharge of the Parihar organisation emphasising the importance of this initiative in the vicinity which would benefit many.

"Women in the IT sector often deal with domestic problems, workplace harassment, or mental health instability. This centre offers them a much-needed platform for assistance and counselling", she stated, adding that it is important to also conduct awareness programs in workplaces, schools,

The centre is currently staffed with one professional counsellor, and the other counsellor will be appointed shortly.

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# Bengaluru rail network to link city with key outskirts

## Suburban and Circular Railway projects aim to enhance regional connectivity, bridging key districts and hubs; feasibility study and extensions planned for better integration

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The Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project (BSRP) and the City Circular Railway Project are set to play a significant role in enhancing connectivity between Bengaluru city and its surrounding districts. To facilitate the integration of these two systems, a feasibility study has been initiated.

The Karnataka Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation (K-RIDE), which is implementing the suburban railway project, has sought approval from the South Western Railway for conducting the feasibility study. "Once the feasibility study is completed, K-RIDE will prepare a detailed project report, after which work will begin, subject to approval from both the state and central governments," said an official.

"K-RIDE will prepare detailed project report, after which work will begin, subject to approval from both the state and central governments"

An official said, "The Suburban Railway will complement the existing metro system. Meanwhile, the Circular Railway, planned to extend over 287 kilometres around the outskirts of Bengaluru, will connect important regions including Devanahalli, Doddaballapur, and others. Already, Rs.7.2 crore has been allocated for development in areas such as Malur, Heelelige, and Nidavanda. The ongoing suburban railway project will cover a total of 148 kilometres across four key corridors. These include a 41.4 km route that connects Bengaluru City (KSRTC), the airport, and Devanahalli; a 25 km stretch linking Bannikahalli and Chikkabanavara; a 35.5 km corridor between Kengeri and Whitefield; and a 46.25 km route connecting Heelalige and Rajanukunte. In addition to these, the Circular Railway will feature several significant stretches, such as a 40.9 km route from Nidavanda to Doddaballapur, a 28.5 km stretch from Doddaballapur to Devanahalli, a 46.5 km corridor from Devanahalli to Malur, a 52 km stretch from Malur to Heelelige, a 42 km route from Heelelige to Hejjala, and a 43.5 km section from Hejjala to Solur. Furthermore, the railway network will link other key stations, with a crucial connection between Nidavanda and Chikkabanavara, which will be integrated into the city via the Bangalore Cantonment station."

> **"Circular Railway, planned to extend over 287 km around outskirts of Bengaluru, will connect important regions including, Devanahalli** – Official

Sources said that the Railway Department has also requested approval for Phase 2 of the suburban railway project, which aims to extend the network by 146 kilometres. If approved, this will facilitate better integration with the planned Circular Railway network. The suburban railway extensions proposed are from Chikkaballapur to Kunigal, Chikkabanavara to Dabbaspet, Kengeri to Hejjala, and Heelalige to Anekal Road, among others. The Railway Department is awaiting approval for the proposed 146 km expansion of the suburban railway system.

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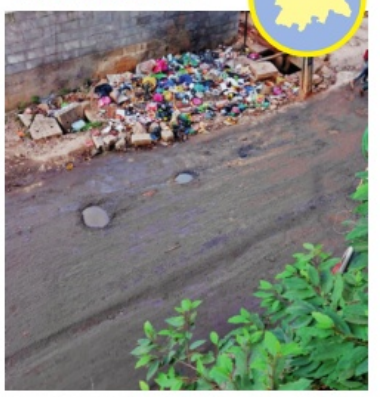
### Road woes
**Thirumenahalli**


The main road in Thirumenahalli is in poor condition, making it difficult for residents and vehicles to navigate.

### Tiles repaired
**Kammanahalli**

Soon after the report in columns, the broken tiles on the Kammanahalli footpath were promptly repaired.

# Think of ways to untie city's traffic knot

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Bangalore Environment Trust. Experts say two-wheelers should be kept out of the ambit as mostly they are used out of necessity.

While experts are in favour of congestion fees on private vehicles entering Bengaluru's CBD, they say the need of the hour is a concerted effort to discourage private transport while actively developing a mass transit system and halting road development projects. "The caveat in implementing congestion fees is the lack of public transit and mass transit options. If we want to become a world-class city, we need to emulate other such cities. For instance, Singapore, in the 1980s, evolved a policy against road infrastructure in favor of mass transit systems. They had a tunnel road project, which was canceled to divert all resources towards development of public transport system," said Sandeep Anirudhan of Citizens' Agenda for Bengaluru.

Experts say that roads have limited capacity for vehicles and only a mass transit system can solve our congestion crisis. "Tokyo has the same landmass as Bengaluru with much higher population density. Yet, the city has only nearly 30 lakh private vehicles, unlike Bengaluru where the number of private vehicles has crossed one crore. The government should announce a plan to develop a dense mass transit network and bring in the rule of congestion fees along with the plan. Currently, the government's priorities are misplaced leading to all the chaos. We have violated the Nagarpalika Act for 30 years. Bengaluru does not even have a planning authority. Moreover, the public should intensify the demand for a mass transit system," added Anirudhan. Some mobility experts also advocated high parking fees that should be levied on private vehicles in the CBD area to discourage use.

"Imposing high parking fees is another push strategy to discourage citizens from using private four-wheelers. Congestion fees or high parking fees are traffic management measures and must be implemented to improve commuting in the city," said a city-based mobility expert.

We would like to hear from you how to ease traffic congestion in city – drop your comments on our Twitter handle @bangaloremirror

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# Hump highway returns

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

nickname "hump highway", prompting officials to seek police protection for hump removal efforts. An official stated, "Existing humps will be retained only where absolutely necessary. Steps will be taken to remove unscientific humps on the stretch once the police department submits its report. Police protection will be sought during removal due to opposition from locals. Many accidents have been reported on the stretch due to unscientific humps, especially at junctions connecting village roads to the highway. Local bodies constructed several unscientific humps following protests and road blockages after accidents resulting in fatalities. Villagers fear that removing humps will lead to more accidents in the future."

A police official said there were many villages located on either side of the busy road. "Accidents have been reported not only because of humps but also because of lack of signage boards on the stretch. Accidents have been reported at the junctions where village roads get connected with the highway. There is a need to replace unscientific humps with scientific one and also installing sign boards on the stretch which alert the drivers."

Sanchit Agarwal, a regular traveler on this road said he takes the service road to travel to Mysuru on his bike. "Negotiating these humps is a big task. I understand that the humps may be necessary to cut down the speed. However, the rules need to be followed to create humps. Currently, you need special skills to cross these humps. As there are no warning signs, we stumble upon the humps only at the last minute. Many tend to apply sudden brakes and fall. There should be warning signs much earlier so that the vehicles can slow down."

Meanwhile, in response to a query in the Legislative Council, PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi stated, "We have observed the presence of unscientific road humps near underpasses. The PWD department is collaborating with the police to identify such unscientific humps and address them. Additionally, the department has pinpointed accident-prone locations on NH 75 at Maddur, Ummadahalli gate, Induvalu, Sundahalli, Ragimuddanahalli, and Garudana Ukkada. Plans are in place to elevate the median height, enhance signboards, and implement other road safety measures at these sites. The tender process for these initiatives was awarded in November 2023, and the commencement of work is anticipated shortly."

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# Basement business must make way for parking soon

## Conversion of building spaces for commercial purposes sparks legal action in Bapuji Layout following complaints

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The conversion of basements in high-rise buildings into shops has been increasing in the city. Many buildings have basements being repurposed for business purposes. Utilising basements for parking vehicles would prevent cars from being parked on the roads, reducing traffic jams and minimising inconvenience to pedestrians.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) authorities have been working to clear basements that are being used for purposes other than their intended use, such as vehicle parking. The latest incident is the conversion of the basement of a building at Bapuji Layout, near Vijayanagar. The BBMP authorities issued a notice to Shubhakaran MR for converting the basement of a building into a study centre. The notice was issued to Shubhakaran based on complaints from neighbours. The BBMP authorities directed Shubhakaran to close the study centre but the latter filed a writ petition in the High Court against the impugned order passed by the BBMP.

The High Court disposed of the writ petition filed by Shubhakaran on November 12, 2024, and directed him to stop forthwith the use of the basement for any purpose other than parking. "The petitioner is granted liberty to move the movables and fixtures within six weeks observing that if the petitioner does not stop using the basement as aforesaid it shall be open to the respondents (BBMP) to take all measures as would be necessary acting in pursuance of the impugned notice to remove fixtures and furniture in the basement," the High Court order read.

The residents complain that the Assistant Executive Engineer (Gali Anjaneya Swamy Temple Ward) has not taken measures to date even after receiving a letter from the BBMP Legal Cell. The authorities concerned are expected to ensure that the basement is used for parking.

# Ola Electric must furnish papers for probe

On Tuesday, the Karnataka High Court declined to nullify a directive issued to Ola Electric requiring additional documentation for a Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) investigation, prompted by numerous consumer grievances. Justice R Devdas ruled that a qualified investigating officer had issued the documentation request in consumers' interests, making it mandatory for Ola to comply.

The Court rejected concerns raised by Senior Advocate Udaya Holla, representing Ola, about potential reputational damage if news of the investigation spread after document submission. The Court stated that the investigating officer was authorised to request such documentation, and Ola must comply. It noted that if the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 requires a hearing, the Authority must provide one, but currently, the documents are needed solely for verification.

Whilst Ola Electric expressed willingness to submit documents to the CCPA directly, it opposed providing them to the investigating officer, questioning their authority. However, the Court cited Section 19(1) of the Act, which permits the CCPA to authorise investigations through its Director General.

Additional Solicitor General Arvind Kamath assured that neither the CCPA nor investigating authorities would make public statements about the probe, addressing Ola's concerns about reputation damage.

On October 12, 2024, the CCPA issued a show cause notice to Ola Electric following 10,466 consumer complaints about their electric two-wheelers between July 2023 and August 2024. The investigation will examine agreement terms, contact complainants, evaluate service centres, etc. The Court ordered Ola Electric to submit all requested documents within six weeks. —BMB

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# All that ails education

## CAG report reveals shortages of Maths, Science teachers, proficient teachers not available for different language medium, other troubling issues

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India report on functioning of primary educational institutions in Karnataka has revealed that 22,054 mathematics and science teacher posts are vacant as against the sanctioned posts of 33,966 while 13,954 language teacher posts and 2,437 physical education teacher posts are vacant.

The CAG audit report, submitted in the State Assembly recently, has stated that 3,353 social science teacher posts and 263 special teacher posts are vacant. "More than 64% of the sanctioned posts for mathematics and sciences are vacant and the vacancy in special teachers' category was 54.68%.

Thus, the absence of subject specific teachers adversely impacts the learning outcome of students which was confirmed in the Annual Status Education Report-2022 wherein a declining trend in the reading, writing, and arithmetic skills of the students.

The government replied (May 2023) that recruitment for 1,614 mathematics, 1,250 biological science posts were notified, and recruitment was under progress," the CAG report read.

### Medium appropriate teachers

The Education Department runs schools under different mediums such as Urdu, Telugu, Tamil, Marathi besides Kannada and English medium schools. The teachers proficient in the respective mediums were to be deployed in these schools.

"The data on the sanctioned strength, working strength and vacancy position of the teachers required for different mediums was not made available to audit. A test check of records of Urdu medium schools in the eight selected districts showed that in 38 Urdu medium schools, Urdu proficient teachers were not available, and teachers qualified for Kannada medium were deployed.

Deploying teachers who are not proficient in the medium of instruction can impede student learning which would adversely impact their academic progress.

The government, while accepting the audit observation, stated that in the recruitment process Urdu posts were notified, however, candidates were not eligible for selection," the CAG report read.

### Imbalance in teacher deployment

The Education Department is required to ensure optimum distribution of available teachers across the districts and blocks. It is found in the need of 31,770 teachers in eight districts such as Bagalkot, Ballari, Bengaluru (Rural), Chamarajanagar, Mysuru, Raichur, Shivamogga, and Sirsi. It is said that 18,391 teachers were identified as excess in these districts indicating that 58 percent of the teacher requirement in these eight districts could be fulfilled by re-deployment of teachers and rationalization.

For instance in Shivamogga district, primary school teachers were deployed in excess in four blocks.

### Multiple grades in single classroom

According to Section 25 of the RTE Act, in upper primary grades, one teacher was to be made available for each grade. The Education Department implemented multi-grade teaching as part of its 'Nali Kali' programme in Government schools up to Grade 3. In multi-grade education, teachers within a timetabled period are responsible for instruction across two or more curriculum grades seated in the same classroom.

It was observed that while the 'Nali Kali' programme was to cover only up to Grade 3, due to shortage of teachers, the multi-grade teaching was extended to other higher Grades of 4 to 7.

It was also observed that even though this model has been under implementation since 1995, the Department is yet to undertake a study to evaluate multi-grade teaching of 'Nali Kali' in the form of learning outcome assessments.

### No guidelines on co-curricular activities

Combining co-curricular activities with the academic curriculum contributes to the overall development of a child. The Department of State Educational Research and Training (DSERT) is the academic authority responsible for preparation of curriculum for schools in the state. The CAG audit observed that the DSERT had not designed any framework for conducting the co-curricular and extra-curricular activities and for assessing the student performance and achievements in these areas.

## Encroachment clearance

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has claimed that a major encroachment on a major stormwater drain in Chamundi Slum, located on Survey No. 90 of Hosakerehalli village in Uttarahalli Hobli under BBMP's South Zone, has come to light.

Temporary sheds had been illegally constructed on the stormwater drain, prompting immediate action. An official said, "In line with government directives and under the guidance of the Zonal Commissioner (South), the BBMP carried out an encroachment clearance operation today.

This was within the Basavanagudi constituency, specifically in Uttarahalli Hobli's Hosakerehalli, Survey No. 90. The temporary sheds built illegally on the stormwater drain were removed as per regulations, with the presence of police officials to ensure the smooth execution of the operation." **BMB**

## Technical investigation

Energy Minister KJ George has announced an immediate technical investigation into the Bidadi power generation unit, where hot ash was released due to waste.

After visiting the Bidadi waste-to-power plant on Tuesday, he said that the issue is technical and a decision will be taken once the investigation is completed. Reports indicate that the pipe carrying the ash was blocked, and workers opened it without taking necessary safety precautions, causing the sudden release of hot ash. The incident left five workers injured, with one succumbing to their injuries on Tuesday.

The minister assured that compensation would be provided to both the deceased and the injured workers. In response to a question, the minister clarified that the ISGEC company set up the plant, which has not yet been transferred to KPCL.

The incident took place during the inspection phase. He stated that the plant will be inaugurated once all issues are resolved.

The first waste-to-energy (BWTE) plant in Karnataka is being set up in Bidadi. This inclusive initiative is a collaboration between Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). **BMB**

# Modern makeover helps KRS reservoir set new record

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@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

The Krishna Raja Sagar Reservoir has achieved a remarkable milestone by maintaining its maximum water level for an extended period. For the first time in three decades, the reservoir has retained a full storage level of 124 feet even in January, ensuring that Bengaluru, which depends on KRS for drinking water, is unlikely to face a water crisis this summer.

Officials said that during 2021, the reservoir reached full capacity on August 17 and maintained it until December 21. Similarly, in 2024, the reservoir stayed at its maximum level of 124.80 feet until December 26 before water was released into canals and rivers.

As of January 5, 2025, the water level remains at 124.30 feet. This is the first time in 30 years that KRS has maintained a water level exceeding 124 feet in January. Another noteworthy record is that the reservoir remained at full capacity for 154 consecutive days, an unprecedented feat.

In stark contrast, in the same period last year, the region faced drought-like conditions until the third week of April. In June 2024, the reservoir's water level was as low as 90 feet.

However, heavy rainfall in Kodagu and Kerala's Wayanad region helped replenish the reservoir rapidly, allowing it to reach 124 feet by July 11. Despite releasing water to Tamil Nadu as mandated by the Supreme Court and giving water for agricultural activities in Mandya during monsoon, the reservoir has managed to maintain a healthy water level of 124.30 feet.

### Modernisation efforts

The reservoir, with a maximum height of 124.80 feet and a storage capacity of 49.452 TMC, has benefited from modernisation initiatives. Replacing 136 gates with new ones has reduced water leakage, saving around 1,000 cusecs of water daily. Upgrading canal systems and repairing the dam gates have also helped. "The modernisation of canals and the replacement of gates have minimised water wastage in the reservoir and canals," said K Raghuraman, Superintendent Engineer, Cauvery Neeravari Nigam, Mandya.

# Brand new police stations and one heritage building

## Newly constructed police stations to be inaugurated today; DCP Central office will be restored, preserved

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@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The city's policing infrastructure will receive a significant boost with the inauguration of newly constructed police stations and offices, including the new DCP Central office, on Wednesday. The heritage building, constructed in 1910, which previously housed the DCP office, will be restored and preserved, according to Police Commissioner B Dayananda.

"We are committed to preserving and restoring the heritage building, following the guidelines set by the Archaeological Survey of India," stated Commissioner of Police B Dayananda. "As a heritage structure, it cannot be demolished or damaged. Instead, we will carefully restore it and repurpose it appropriately to ensure its continued use."

The facilities being inaugurated include the Chamarajpet Law and Order Police Station and the Chamarajpet Traffic Police Station, followed by the DCP Central Office and the Traffic Police Station at Cubbon Park. Additionally, the ACP Sheshadripuram Sub-Division Office, High Grounds Law and Order Police Station, High Grounds Traffic Police Station, and the Pulakeshi Nagar residential quarters near Lazar Road will also be opened.

The event will be presided over by the Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, along with Union Ministers, State Government Ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and senior police officials.

### Modern infrastructure

These newly constructed buildings are equipped with modern amenities designed to enhance the operational efficiency of the police force, improve public service delivery, and provide a better working environment for personnel. Strategically located across key areas of Bengaluru, the facilities aim to meet the needs of contemporary law enforcement while ensuring community safety. The Pulakeshinagar Residential Quarters will offer improved living conditions for police personnel, reflecting the government's commitment to supporting those who serve the public.

### Restoration project

Speaking about the ongoing restoration project for the former Commissioner's Office, he added, "We have prepared a detailed project report with the help of an architect specializing in the restoration of old buildings. Based on her recommendations, we are moving forward with the restoration work. The same approach will be applied to the old DCP Central Office building, which is also a heritage structure," he stated.

# Dip in city's PM2.5 level

Bengaluru achieved an 8% reduction in PM2.5 level between 2019 and 2024, according to a study published by Respier Living Sciences, a climate tech startup.

The report titled 'Towards Clear Skies 2025: An In-Depth Analysis of Air Quality Improvements in Indian Cities (2019-2024)' highlights that PM2.5 levels in the city decreased from 35.9 µg/m³ in 2019 to 33.0 µg/m³ in 2024.

The city's air quality shows stability, benefiting from its relatively lower industrial density compared to other metros.

The study encompasses 130 cities across the country, including 82 NCAP cities, over six years from January 1, 2019, to December 31, 2024. This analysis is performed on data from various sources, including the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the AtlasAQ platform.

Bengaluru's Air Quality Index (AQI) also underlined that the city consistently recorded a high number of "Good" and "Satisfactory" days, totaling 352 days in 2024, an improvement over 356 days in 2021. Cleaner air was observed during monsoon months (June–August) and slightly elevated levels in winter (October–December). The city consistently recorded PM2.5 levels below 40 µg/m³. — BMB

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# Online FIR system to beat wildlife, forest crimes

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Karnataka Forest Department, in association with Wild Life Trust of India (WTI), has launched Garudakshi, an online FIR system to prevent forest and wildlife-related crimes.

The portal was launched by Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar B Khandre to record crimes like forest encroachment, illegal felling of trees, poaching, trespassing, etc.

"At present, it is being implemented on a pilot basis in five divisions. After we receive field reports from forest staff, it will further be extended to other divisions in a phased manner. Now onwards, the officials will have to record cases on the portal," said Khandre while inaugurating the software on Tuesday.

With the current paper-based system, it is difficult to monitor the progress of forest crime cases. The software is expected to allow management and supervision at every step. Once an FIR is lodged, a copy of the FIR will be available. As soon as any case is recorded in the software, it will auto-generate the documents and reports required to register the case. It will also allow transparent tracking of processes related to forest law enforcement and conservation.

Some of the features of the software include the Legacy Case Registration Module, Online Forest Offence Registration, Investigation Module, and Reporting and Analytics Module. In the first phase of operation, it will computerise all old cases registered under various wings of the department. So far, 40K cases have already been logged in the software.

### Software to allow more efficient and transparent system of ensuring enforcement of law

"The software will also help track the efficacy of range forest officers," added the minister. Experts say while it is a good initiative, the department still needs to fix accountability. "An online system to file FIR is a good step. However, there should still be a provision in place to take action against erring officials in case charge sheets are not filed. "Accountability must be fixed on officials that are filing such cases," said a wildlife conservationist.

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## personal

### CHANGE OF NAME

**Change Of Name**

I, Pradeesh V S, S/O Veettiyot Illath Sankaran Namboodiri, R/O U1-101, Astro Rosewood Regency, Sarjapur Road, Kaikondrahalli, Bangalore – 560035 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Pradeesh Veettiyot Illath Sankaran Namboodiri.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
**I, MOHAMMED ZAFEER ALAM** S/o ABDUL WAHEED, 57 Years old, R/ at MARUTHI EXTENSION, MALUR TOWN Malur Taluk Kolar District-563130. In My Passport No. A8281837, My name is Wrongly mentioned as MOHAMMED ZAFIR ALAM, father Name as ABDUL WAHID & DOB 05/08/1971 instead of my name MOHAMMED ZAFEER ALAM, Father name is ABDUL WAHEED & DOB is 10/01/1967. Same sworn before M.Jagannatha, Advocate & Notary, Malur Dated: 28/12/2024.

I ADVAIT NADKARNI S/o ADITI NADKARNI R/o 26/1, 6th main road, Malleswaram affirm that my name is ADVAIT NADKARNI and not ADVAIT XXXX NADKARNI as erroneously entered in the NIOS application form.

I, Neelam D/o M R Dogra R/o R-5, Paradise Nest, varthur Main Rd, Thubarahalli B'lore-560066 have changed my name to Neelam Dogra for all purposes.

I, Shobha Bhageratha W/O, N Bhagiratha Rao R/at No 234, 2nd Cross, 8th Main Road, Railway Layout, Bhavaninagar 2nd Phase, Bengaluru - 560056 have changed my name to Shobha Bhagiratha Rao, Vide Affidavit Dt: 04.01.2025 sworn before Notary Devaraja E, Bengaluru

I, Akshata Lingasur W/o Ramakrishna N R/o No.22, 2nd main, Vinayaka Lyt, Kempegowdanagar, Honniganahatti, Bengaluru 562130 have changed my name to Akshata Anil Lingasur (Akshata A Lingasur) Affidavit Dt.07/01/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, GIRISHA PRABHU G, Residing at No.1100, Kathyayani 2nd Cross, 7th A Main, BTM Layout, 1st Stage, Bangalore - 560029, Have changed my name to GURUPUR GIRISHA PRABHU, vide affidavit dated 07/01/2025 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G. Bangalore.

I, PURNIMA KUTURU alias S PURNIMA, D/o Madhava Rao Seerapu, R/o Building 153, Flat No. 48, Jakkasandra Extension, Koramangala, Bengaluru – 560034, have changed my name as PURNIMA REDDY S, vide affidavit dated 06.01.2025 sworn before notary S. Subashini, Bengaluru.

I, Vishal Karala Vijaykumar S/o, Kutti Vijaykumar R/o #227 B4 2nd Floor Janapriya Greenwood Apartment Pipeline Road Somashettyhalli Bangalore 560090 have changed my name to Vishal Kutti Vijaykumar for all purposes.

I, SHABHANA TAJ RAHMAN, R/a#14, G/Flr Royal Mansion 4th Main SK Garden Bangalore -46. I, have Changed my name to SHABANA TAJ RAHMAN, Vide affidavit, dated 30/12/2024 Sworn before Notary R. Basavaraja Bangalore

I, B.Ravindra Babu No-18,4th T block,6th stage vtc-Thalagha - ttapura,B'luru 560109 have changed my minor daughter name from Lakshya.B to Bondalakunta Lakshya vide affidavit dated 07-01-2025 notary Kodi Nagappa, B'luru.

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I, Rajeev Jajur Sanjeeva Murthy R/o 422, 6th Cross, Rbi Layout, 7th Phase, Jp Nagar, B'lore 560078 have changed my minor son's name from Pranav R Bharadwaj to Pranav Rajeev Bharadwaj for all purposes.

I Satish S/O, Vaman Shanbhag R/o 202 C Block Radiant Jasmine Garden Jakkur Road, Yelahanka Bangalore 560064 have changed my name to Satish Vaman Shanbhag.

I, DIVYA GANDOTRA, W/o Sumeet Gandotra, R/o D062, SJR Palazza City, Sarjapur Road, Doddakannalli, Carmelaram, Bengaluru – 560013, have changed my name as DIVYA KAPAHI, vide affidavit dated 06.01.2025 sworn before notary S. Subashini, Bengaluru.

I Mukeshkumar D Pathak residing at Flat No 703, Block 2, Wing C, Arcadia Carmelaram Main Road, Chikkabellandur Bangalore 560035, have changed my name from Mukesh Kumar to Mukeshkumar D Pathak

I, Naveena Kunkanadu Gurumurthy, S/o. Gurumurthappa K. G., R/o. #04, K. No. 65/1,3, 9th Main, Sriram Nagar, G B Palya Road, Hongasandra, Blr-68, have changed my name to Naveen Kunkanadu Gurumurthy vide affidavit Dtd: 07/01/25 before Notary M. Rajendra, B'lore.

### LOST & FOUND

I, Okram Anandi Devi, have lost my degree certificate in Bachelor of Technology in Computer Science & Engineering (Reg No 07-1-5-010) issued by National Institute of Technology Silchar. Finder, please contact at anandi445@outlook.com .

I, Vijaya M Rao, R/O No. 97, East End C Main Rd, Jayanagar 9th block, Bangalore - 560 041. Have lost my property Document No : 2087/06-07. Lost Report No : 1412791/2025 .

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**HEALTH TIP:** Some studies have linked even mild iodine deficiency to lower IQs and language delay in children

Stress may aggravate acne because cortisol causes the sebaceous glands to secrete more oil

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MIND, BODY & HEART

## All you need to know about...

*Loud looking*

**What is it?**

Loud looking is the unapologetic dating trend that's flipping the script. Imagine telling your date that your ideal Sunday involves a run and pancakes for breakfast or being upfront about wanting someone who's career-driven. Loud looking is all about being emotionally open, sharing your deal breakers, and embracing vulnerability.

Think bios that are all about clarity: 'Looking for something serious,' 'Not here for anything casual,' or 'Must be open to commitment'. It's the kind of directness that takes the guesswork out of the equation. But loud looking isn't just about being blunt – it's about showcasing your true self. 'Plant parent seeking co-parent' or 'Fluent in sarcasm, need someone who can keep up' are the quirky, personality-packed details that make your profile stand out. Whether you're a "Dog mom looking for a caffeine partner for puppy-filled mornings" or a 'Crime documentaries aficionado looking for a partner-in-crime,' loud looking is about unapologetically telling people what you're about – no filters, no games.

**What makes it stand out?**

In a world where digital communication often leaves room for misinterpretation, loud looking removes the ambiguity, allowing individuals to express their true selves right from the start. It's a bold rejection of societal pressures to conform to traditional dating expectations. By embracing loud looking, Gen Z is fostering an environment where dating feels more authentic and fulfilling, where individuals are celebrated for who they truly are rather than who they think others want them to be.

**—Dr Chandni Tugnait, Relationship Expert at Tinder India, for Femina**

# WATCH WHAT YOU EAT

## 5 healthy diet staples that may interact with prescription drugs

One of the most popular new year's resolutions is making a commitment to healthier eating. Whether that's eating more fruits and vegetables, cutting down on meat consumption or even becoming a vegetarian or vegan a few days a week.

While there are many benefits that can come from following a healthier diet, it's important that any diet changes are made carefully. This is especially true if you're someone who takes a prescription drug, as many health food staples can negatively interact with them.

Here are some common foods and drinks interactions you should know about:

### 1 Grapefruit juice

To break down some prescription drugs in the body, the liver uses enzymes called cytochrome P450. But grapefruit juice contains chemical compounds called furanocoumarins which can block the action of these enzymes. If this happens, some drugs can accumulate in the body.

This includes ciclosporin, a drug that's commonly used to prevent organ transplant rejection and manage symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis and skin conditions such as psoriasis. A build-up of ciclosporin can cause many side-effects, ranging from mild nausea and vomiting to kidney and liver damage.

Statins, often used to treat high cholesterol levels and prevent heart attacks and strokes, can also be affected by grapefruit juice through the same mechanism. Increased statin levels in the body can raise the risk of side-effects, including muscle breakdown, which is rare but serious.

Many other drugs can potentially interact with grapefruit juice as well – including amlodipine (a common high blood pressure drug) and sildenafil (an erectile dysfunction drug). If you take any of these prescriptions drugs, it's best to talk to your doctor or pharmacist before drinking even small amounts of grapefruit juice. It may even be best to avoid it altogether.

### 2 Pomegranate and cranberry juice

Many fruits and fruit juices – especially from the citrus family – can affect the breakdown of drugs in the liver.

Pomegranate juice is also shown to block the liver enzymes which break down the anticoagulant drug warfarin. The drug is used to prevent blood clots from forming in people with heart arrhythmias such as atrial fibrillation or deep vein thrombosis.

Some reported cases suggest that pomegranate juice might increase the international normalised ratio (INR – the time taken for blood to clot) in patients taking warfarin. This means patients may be at higher risk of bleeding.

Pomegranate juice may also affect other drugs, such as tacrolimus, an anti-rejection drug used in organ transplants.

Similarly, a number of case reports suggest cranberry juice can also affect warfarin. There has been one reported death of a patient from bleeding after they had drunk cranberry juice for two weeks prior while taking warfarin.

But results from various studies are mixed – with some showing cranberry affects warfarin in the body while others don't show any effect. Because of this, it may be worth checking the INR more often if you drink these juices or consider that any fluctuations in INR may be due to fruit juices.

### 3 Green leafy vegetables

Spinach, broccoli and kale are often hailed as healthy foods because they're filled with nutrients while being low in calories.

However, they're also high in vitamin K, which is needed to activate certain clotting factors (proteins in the blood which help it clot).

This may be problematic for patients taking warfarin. Warfarin works by blocking vitamin K in order to prevent blood clots from forming. But eating foods rich in vitamin K can lower your INR and increase the risk of developing a blood clot.

It's important to have a healthy diet – but be sure to monitor your INR levels or speak to your doctor if you do introduce more vitamin K-rich foods into your diet.

### 4 Milk

Milk and dairy-rich foods such as cheese and yoghurt are all good sources of protein and calcium – a mineral required for healthy bones.

But these foods can affect the absorption of some drugs in the gut. This includes antibiotics such as some tetracyclines and ciprofloxacin. The calcium in the milk can bind to the antibiotic, meaning it cannot be absorbed into the bloodstream. This means the body will not get the full dose of antibiotic – making it harder for it to fight the infection.

Other drugs affected by dairy include levothyroxine, a drug used for patients with low thyroid levels.

But as these interactions happen in the gut, this means you can still have dairy even if you take these drugs. In most cases, you just need to leave at least a two-hour gap either before or after taking the drug before consuming dairy.

### 5 Beans

Beans are considered healthy as they're high in fibre and vitamins and minerals. Beans are also a great source of plant-based protein.

But soybeans, broad beans (fava beans) and snow peas may be high in tyramine. While tyramine is a substance naturally found in the body and in certain foods (such as aged cheeses, cured meats and fermented foods), it can interact with the antidepressant phenelzine.

Phenelzine is a monoamine oxidase inhibitor antidepressant (MAOI), which is less commonly used nowadays. The drug blocks enzymes which break down tyramine in the body.

If patients eat tyramine-rich foods, this may result in high levels of tyramine, potentially leading to a dangerous rise in blood pressure. Only MAOI antidepressants, such as phenelzine, isocarboxazid, tranylcypromine, are affected by tyramine.

A healthy diet can improve your overall health in many ways. Just be sure to consult with a doctor of pharmacist before drastically changing your diet – particularly if you take prescription medications.

*(By Dipa Kamdar, Kingston University, The Conversation)*

TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES
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SEEKING THE DIVINE

Friday, 24th January 2025 | 6:15 pm
SO SAID THE SAINTS OF MAHARASHTRA
Avadhoot Gandhi & Group
HEAVEN, EARTH & MAN
Pipa Connects: Chia-Ning Liang (Taiwan)
ARABIC TASAWWUF COME ALIVE
Saif Al Ali (UAE) with Aly El Helbawy (Egypt)
A GLIMPSE INTO THE WORLD OF BULLEH SHAH - Madan Gopal Singh & Chaar Yaar
WHEN HEARTS CONNECT
Indo-Arabic Production
QAWWALI - Akbar Nizami & Group
Jayamahal Palace Hotel Lawns, Bengaluru
Conceived & Produced by
Banyan Tree
We bring performances aLIVE
Tickets on bookmyshow.com or Scan QR Code
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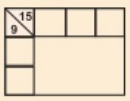
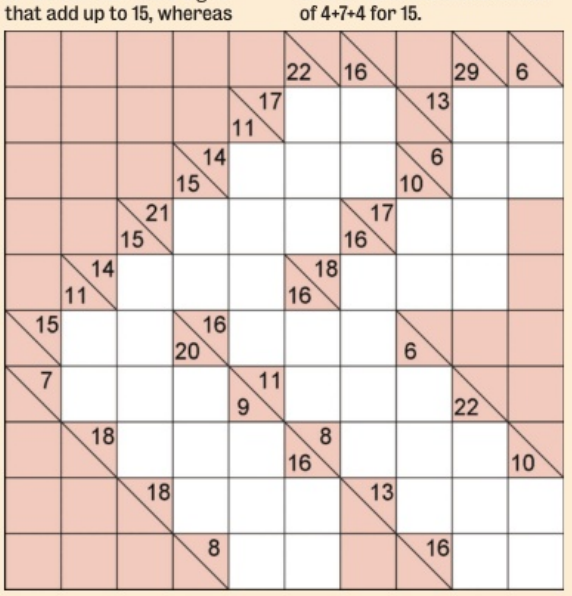
## Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

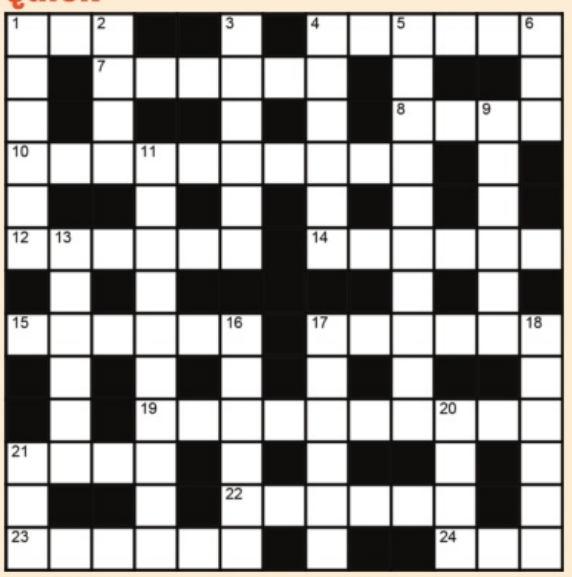



for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



## Quick



**ACROSS**

1 Maj.'s boss (3)
4 Nonsense (6)
7 Shrewd (6)
8 Watch over (4)
10 Strong hand at poker? (5,5)
12 Imitated (6)
14 Go beyond, overshoot (6)
15 Puts at risk (6)
17 Aromas (6)
19 Person on the bench (10)
21 Cigarette end (4)
22 Antagonism (6)
23 Protect or safeguard (6)
24 Young boy (3)

**DOWN**

1 Clergyman (6)
2 Averse to work (4)
3 Won a trick by using a trump (6)
4 Modest (6)
5 Free of suspicion or difficulty? (2,3,5)
6 Limited, in short (3)
9 Best (6)
11 India's one and only member of the 600 Test wickets club (4,6)
13 Retail store (6)
16 Hung loosely (6)
17 Flavouring seed (6)
18 Appeared to be? (6)
20 Radical C-5 H-11 in organic chemistry? (4)
21 Causing sorrow (3)

## Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

**Today's CLUE: Z EQUALS T**

ZEA PDXBBYCCL BECQDF RA XW AWZYX_WPA GWZC ZEA MCYDF, WCZ XW ABPXHA KYCL GZ.

### Linemaro

Because of you, I laugh a little harder, cry a little less, and smile a lot more

### Mindchow

It is not because things are difficult that we do not dare; it is because we do not dare that they are difficult

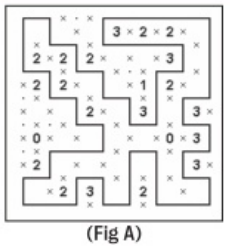
### Joke of the day

restaurant: "If you think our waitresses are uncivil, you ought to see the manager"

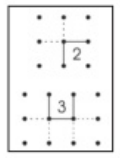
## Loop

**Rules**

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



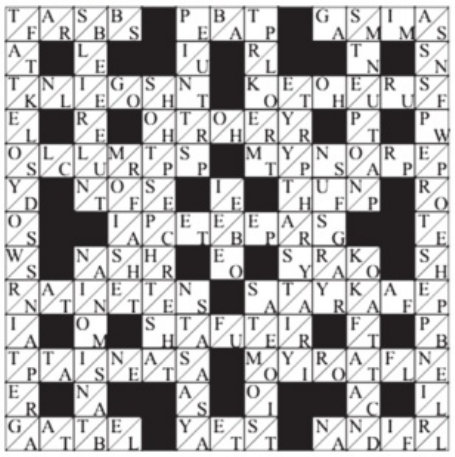
(Fig B) Not Allowed

**How to begin:**

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

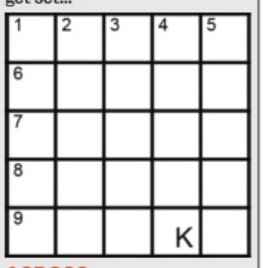
## Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

## Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...




**ACROSS**

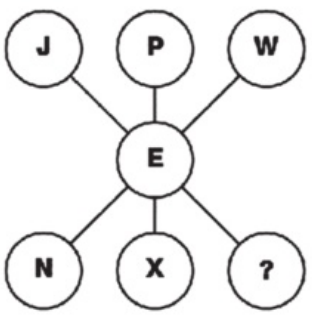
1 Gas as; 6 An lee;
7 Lenin; 8 Came I;
9 Shacks

**DOWN**

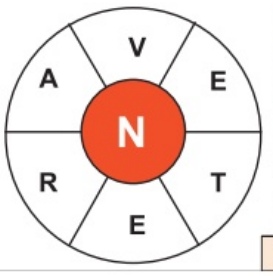
1 Lhasa; 2 Amain;
3 Nice G; 4 L cake;
5 Essen

## Mensapuzzle

What is missing from the bottom right hand circle?




## Bull's eye




How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

15 Average; 17 Good; 19 Outstanding

## SudokuChallenge

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 5 | | | | | | 1 | |
| 1 | | 9 | | 4 | | 7 | | 6 |
| | | 3 | 7 | | 1 | 2 | | |
| | 4 | 8 | | | | 5 | 3 | |
| 9 | | | | | | | | 7 |
| | 1 | 7 | | | | 8 | 2 | |
| | | 4 | 5 | | 9 | 3 | | |
| 8 | | 5 | | 3 | | 9 | | 2 |
| | 9 | | | | | | 5 | |

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

## Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 14
4 5 6 9

Medium = 11
2 3 5 6

Hard = 9
4 8 9 5

## Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

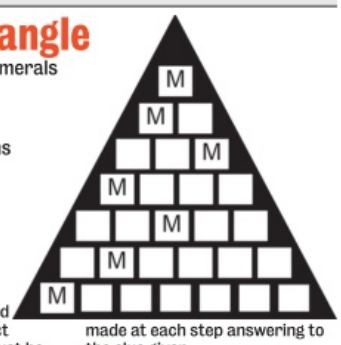
**Differences:** 1. Hair is longer. 2. Leg is moved. 3. Arm of chair is not showing. 4. Vacuum handle is shorter. 5. Hand is moved. 6. Bow on hat is moved.

## Riddler

Without changing the order of these numbers, how can they equal 100?
3 5 6 2 54 5

## Alpha triangle

1 1000 in Roman numerals
2 Money Ord.
3 Male feline
4 Dust speck
5 Large publications
6 Acts poorly
7 Shooting stars

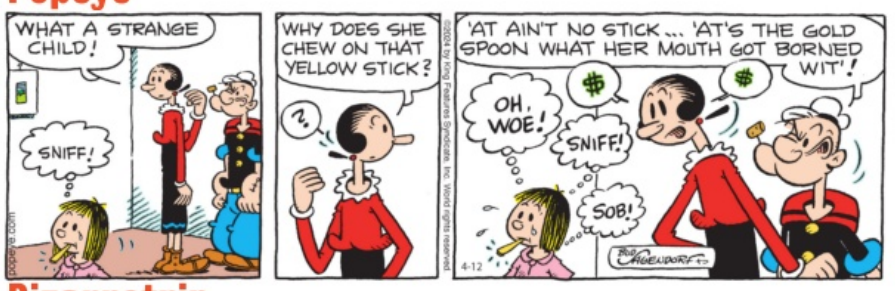



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.


DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

# COMICS

## Popeye


WHAT A STRANGE CHILD!
SNIFF!
WHY DOES SHE CHEW ON THAT YELLOW STICK?
'AT AIN'T NO STICK... 'AT'S THE GOLD SPOON WHAT HER MOUTH GOT BORNED WIT'!
OH, WOE!
SNIFF!
SOB!

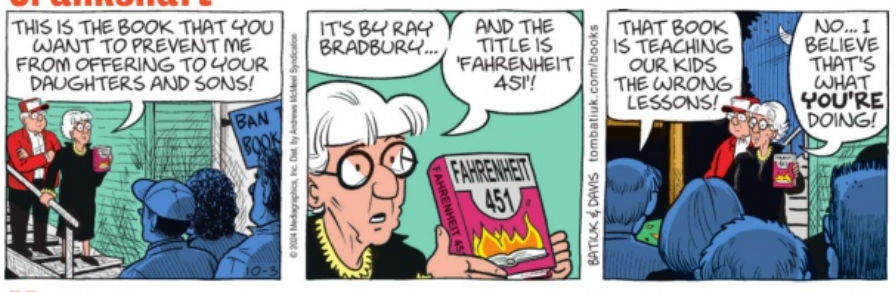
## Bizarrotrip

## Diamond Lil

## Hart of the city

IF TOBY AND I GET PICKED FOR THE DUET AT THE FALL CONCERT, HE'LL LOOK INTO MY EYES AND KNOW THAT WE'RE MEANT TO BE TOGETHER.
WE SUPPORT YOUR DREAMS, NO QUESTIONS ASKED.
BUS
PICK-UP
I HAVE A QUESTION! WHO IS TOBY? I THINK I CAME IN AT THE END OF THAT ARC.
WEE HEE

## Crankshaft


THIS IS THE BOOK THAT YOU WANT TO PREVENT ME FROM OFFERING TO YOUR DAUGHTERS AND SONS!
BAN BOOK
IT'S BY RAY BRADBURY...
AND THE TITLE IS 'FAHRENHEIT 451'!
FAHRENHEIT 451
THAT BOOK IS TEACHING OUR KIDS THE WRONG LESSONS!
NO... I BELIEVE THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE DOING!

## Mutts

EVERY DOG SHOULD GO FOR A COMPLETE MEDICAL AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR.
DR. WOO
FOR GOOD HEALTH... FOR PEACE OF MIND...
FOR THE LOLLIPOP.
mutts.com

# WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

**Aries** Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon, and destiny is likely to be on your side. You may feel more energetic and focused at work. Your hard work is likely to pay off with success, and your colleagues may offer their support. You may also go for a short work-related trip. Good news from your sibling may bring happiness

**Taurus** Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may be busy with family matters and making important decisions on the domestic front. Avoid arguments in your personal life, as your arrogance may disrupt domestic harmony. By late evening, things may fall into place. Trust your intuition before making business investments.

**Gemini** May 21 – Jun 21
Today, messy situations will come under control, bringing peace to your mind. You may find a proper balance between expenditure and earnings, improving your financial health. Avoid excessive travel or overworking, as it could affect your health. Students may start planning for their future. Lovebirds are likely to enjoy happy moments together.

**Cancer** Jun 22 – July 23
Today, until the evening, you may enjoy a balanced work and domestic life. You may receive money that was previously stuck. However, from late evening, you may feel dull and experience some unknown fear, leading to stress and disturbed sleep. It's advised to practice meditation.

**Leo** Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may be blessed by the moon, turning any disappointment into happiness. Your focus will shift toward your goals, and you may use creativity to make changes at work or in your home. Love may be around you, and lovebirds are advised to avoid unrealistic expectations in relationships. Students should avoid speculation in their studies.

**Virgo** Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may be busy at work, and your communication skills may help you secure a big order, benefiting your business. You may meet an influential person who will support your growth. Your family may assist you in making difficult decisions at work. In love matters, control your tongue and avoid being too straightforward in conversations.

**Libra** Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may receive full support from your parents, and you are likely to experience success in government-related work. Your relationship with management may improve, leading to benefits in business or work. You may also plan an overseas work trip. Stay cautious about infections—drink plenty of water and incorporate lemon into your diet

**Scorpio** Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may feel a sense of unknown fear, and negative thoughts may cloud your mind. Impatience and arrogance may prevent you from making difficult decisions at work. Seek the blessings of your elders to navigate through this situation. Avoid investments in dead assets, and lovebirds should steer clear of discussing trivial matters.

**Sagittarius** Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may start your day feeling positive and patient, which will reflect in your work. Your optimism regarding business gains will help you succeed. You may have a stronger emotional bond with your spouse, enhancing family harmony. Job seekers may receive good news.

**Capricorn** Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today is a good day at work, and you're likely to perform well. You may lead your team effectively, and your focus on work will be appreciated by your boss. You may receive rewards or even a promotion. Job seekers may land a new job. Singles may find themselves falling in love with someone at their workplace. Architects, artists, and traders may excel

**Aquarius** Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today is important for your domestic life. You may be busy with your children, and you may hear good news related to their education. You may also purchase creative items for your home or office to maintain your social status. Use wisdom when making purchases. Those in the military, management, electronics, and medicine may excel.

**Pisces** Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may feel dissatisfied as those around you may not cooperate with you. Patience is advised. Be cautious and read documents carefully before signing contracts. Avoid making investments in useless items, as this could be a bottleneck for you. Students should approach their studies with patience and focus.

## KIDZONE

Prerana G Bengaluru

Anushika KV, Bengaluru

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

# SOLUTIONS

**SOLVE IN 1M**
65536^1/4=16
(16÷16) / (1×1)
1 / 1 = 1

**RIDDLER**
= 3^(5-6)+2^5!-5
= -3 + 108 - 5
= 105 - 5
= 100

**FAST FIVE**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| H | A | C | K | S |
| E | | | | |
| L | I | N | E | N |
| A | M | I | C | E |
| S | A | G | A | S |

**QUOTE UNCODE**
The classroom should be an entrance into the world, not an escape from it.

**STRIKE OUT**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | A | T | E | | Y | E | S | | A | N | I | | | |
| P | A | I | N | T | S | | M | Y | R | T | L | E | | |
| A | | O | | S | A | F | E | R | | F | | B | | |
| N | A | N | T | E | S | | S | T | R | A | F | E | | |
| W | | A | S | H | | O | | Y | A | K | | H | | |
| O | | | I | C | E | B | E | R | G | | T | | | |
| D | | T | O | E | | I | | T | U | N | | R | | |
| S | L | U | M | P | S | | M | Y | S | O | R | E | | |
| E | R | | O | T | H | E | R | | P | | W | | | |
| K | N | I | G | H | T | | O | T | H | E | R | S | | |
| A | | E | | U | | R | | | T | | N | | | |
| T | A | B | S | | P | A | P | | A | S | I | A | N | |

**QUICK**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | O | L | | | R | | | O | R | I | V | E | L | |
| | | I | | N | | E | | R | | E | | C | | |
| | S | T | U | B | | G | | A | | M | | M | | |
| | E | | M | A | G | I | S | T | R | A | T | E | | |
| | L | | U | | A | | E | | A | | E | | | |
| S | T | A | K | E | S | | S | C | E | N | T | S | | |
| | U | | L | | | L | | | | | S | | | |
| C | O | P | I | E | D | | E | X | C | E | E | D | | |
| | I | | N | | E | | R | | E | | C | | | |
| R | O | Y | A | L | F | L | U | S | H | | I | | | |
| L | A | S | T | U | T | E | | N | | T | E | N | D | |
| | L | | Z | | F | | M | | T | E | | D | | |
| E | | L | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| D | E | F | E | N | D | | E | | L | A | D | | | |

**MENSA PUZZLE**
1. Start at the top left, and work through the diagram in a Z shape. letters move through the alphabet in steps of 6, then 7, then 8 etc.

**BULL'S EYE**
ante, earn, eaten, enter, even, event, near, neat, neater, nerve, never, rant, raven, rent, tavern, teen, vane, vent, VETERAN

**SUDOKU**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 8 |
| 8 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 2 |
| 2 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 1 |
| 5 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 4 |
| 9 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 7 |
| 6 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 9 |
| 4 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 5 |
| 1 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 6 |
| 7 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 |

**ALPHA TRIANGLE**
M, MO, Tom, Mote, Tomes, Emotes, Meteors.

**GO FIGURE**
Easy
4 + 9 + 6 - 5 = 14
Medium
3 x 5 + 2 - 6 = 11
Hard
4 + 5 - 8 x 9 = 9

**LOOP**

**KAKURO**

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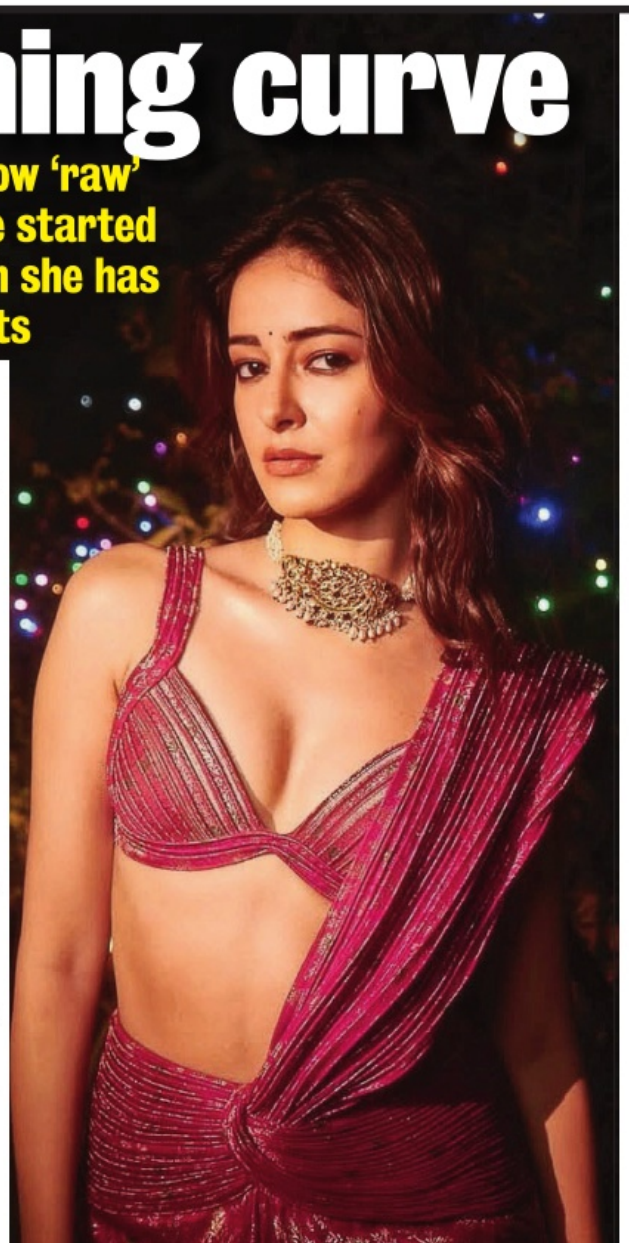
**Fitness goals—** Actress Preity Zinta has redefined fitness goals as she shared a video of her working out and said that one has to make themselves better, stronger and healthier

# Learning curve

## Ananya reveals how 'raw' she was when she started out and how much she has learned on the sets



Ananya Panday has shared her journey in the Hindi film industry, reflecting on how she felt "completely raw" when she debuted in 'Student of the Year 2'. In a recent interview with Forbes India, she revealed that she rarely visited her father Chunky Panday's film sets as a child and had little knowledge of filmmaking. Ananya discussed her acting process and the challenges she faced while shooting her debut film.

When asked about how her acting process has changed, Ananya said it has completely transformed. She started without any formal training or experience, going straight from school to a film set. She wouldn't change her journey and is grateful for everything she has learned on set.

The actress recalled that she rarely visited her father Chunky Panday's film sets, which contributed to her struggles during her debut film 'Student Of The Year 2'.

She mentioned that despite her dad being an actor, she only went to a couple of his sets as a child. Ananya admitted she had little understanding of filmmaking, not knowing how cameras worked or the difference between wide and close shots. She thought filming was straightforward, believing you just needed to do a take once for the camera to capture you.

She further explained that filmmaking involves understanding angles, lighting, and various technical aspects. She feels that 'Student Of The Year 2' served as her technical learning experience. —ETimes

# Sisters in quirks

Khushi Kapoor is gearing up for her big-screen debut in the movie 'Loveyapa', where she stars opposite Junaid Khan, the son of Aamir Khan. The film's first song, 'Loveyapa Ho Gaya', was recently released, highlighting the chemistry between the lead pair.

Adding to the excitement, Khushi and her sister Janhvi Kapoor created a hilarious reel featuring the quirky track, which includes a cameo by their father, Boney Kapoor. Arjun Kapoor's reaction to the reel is also a highlight, making it a must-see for fans. Taking to Instagram, Khushi shared a delightful video featuring her sister Janhvi. In the clip, Khushi wore a white top while Janhvi donned a black shirt. The two, sporting black sunglasses, showcased the hook step of the new song 'Loveyapa Ho Gaya'.

Their father, Boney Kapoor, made two appearances in the video, singing the alaap and bringing laughter to the sisters.

Sharing the video, Khushi captioned, "Nikla tha love karne par papa aagaya (I went out to love, but Papa came)...

Arjun Kapoor reacted in the comments section of a recent post with a red heart and a laughing emoji, exclaiming, "best alaap ever!!!" Additionally, Varun Dhawan was also left in splits, finding the video amusing. The song 'Loveyapa Ho Gaya' features vocals by Nakash Aziz and Madhubanti Bagchi. —ETimes

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

# Shooting wrapped up

The shooting of Sri Jaganmathe Akkamahadevi wrapped up recently and the post production works are in progress. Director-cum-producer Vishnukanth BJ, known for Manasugala Maathu Madhura, Ganga Kaveri, Dr BR Ambedkar, and Kalyana Kuvara, is not only directing this movie but is also playing the lead.

"My previous movie Kalyana Kuvara was screened at Bidar for more than 75 days. My latest movie is Sri Jaganmathe Akkamahadevi. It was shot in 45 days, including three days at a unique location – Akka Mahadevi Cave at Srisailam in Andhra Pradesh. We are the first to shoot at this location. I wrote three songs based on 21 vachanas written by Akka Mahadevi," said Vishnukanth.

He said he bankrolled Manasugala Maathu Madhura that was released in 2008. "I bankrolled Dr BR Ambedkar and also played the lead. The movie got the best award in 2005 from the state government," he said.

He said the computer graphics works are in progress. "We are creating an elephant and Mount Kailash using graphics as it was tough for us to use an elephant for a procession scene in the movie. I play King Kaushika while Sulaksha plays Akka Mahadevi," he said. The movie was shot in Kalaburagi, Bidar, Srisailam, and Kadu Gudda. It also features Bhavya, Shwetha, Biradar, Dr Helen and others.